

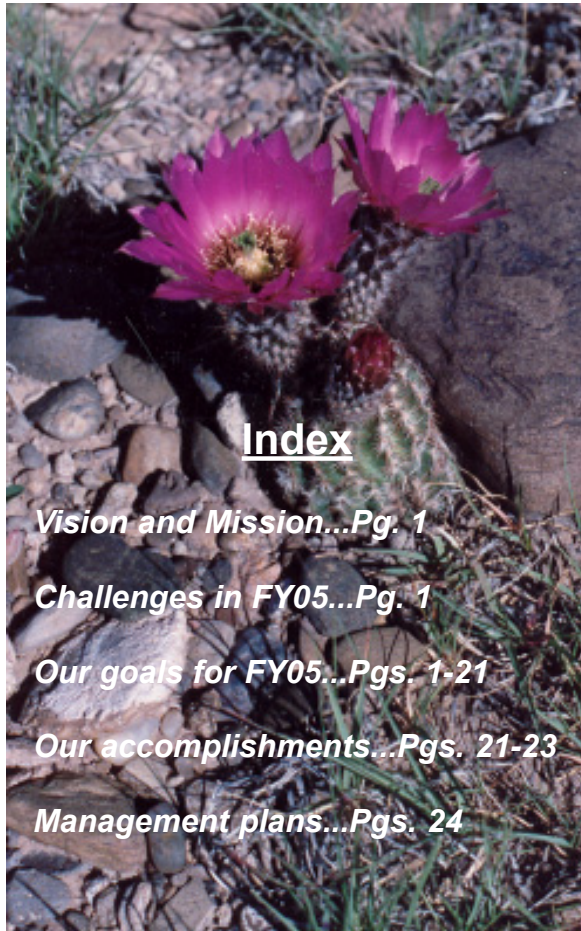
DECAM FY05 Business Report



***Cover photo Richard Bunn, Fort Carson
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DECAM vision

An enterprising and vigilant DECAM enabling military training and mission readiness in a culture of environmental stewardship that anticipates future requirements.

DECAM mission

The DECAM is a customer-oriented, interdisciplinary environmental organization established to provide for the long-term accomplishment of the military mission. We manage, conserve and demonstrate sound stewardship of the public trust for the environmental resources under our responsibility by providing proactive and competent environmental, energy and natural resource management services and operations.

We accomplish the mission by means of a diverse team of individuals integrating professionally all environmental and mission-related requirements within our sphere of influence.

Challenges in FY05...

Fort Carson faced ongoing challenges in FY05 due to the return and the redeployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers and equipment were again mobilized, which created ongoing environmental challenges, including ensuring hazardous materials left behind were properly stored or disposed. Ongoing budget constraints continue to cause the DECAM to do more with less to accomplish its mission.

Our goals in FY05...

Our Strategic Goals consist of four pillars: Compliance, Restoration, Prevention and Conservation. The following section outlines the desired outcomes of the four pillars and how individual program areas met their performance goals in FY05.

I. COMPLIANCE: Attain and sustain compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws, regulations, directives and policies. The Compliance pillar is measured by the following strategic outcomes:

- * Reduce, control or abate pollutants, emissions and discharges to the environment from military support operations.
- * Comply with statutory and regulatory mandates, requirements and procedures.
- * Reduce enforcement actions by regulators.

ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS (ASTs)

The goal of maintaining zero inspection findings by the Office of Public Safety (OPS) was met, largely in part due to DECAM

environmental compliance assistance team (ECAT) visits and increased training. The ECAT members established procedures for identifying and properly closing out unused ASTs, which were not in compliance with inspection documentation requirements.

Accomplishments in FY05 included installing automatic leak detectors on 20 ASTs. A secondary containment berm was installed at Bldg. 8152, a motorpool, to allow four tankers to park without having to defuel. A groundtruthing (physical verification that an item on an inventory list matches the actual item) was completed and developed and initiated procedures for placing unused ASTs into temporarily closed status. Inspection forms for ASTs and other information were automated and posted on the Fort Carson Sustainability and Environmental Management (SEMS) website for access.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Reconcile AST inventory list with OPS's list which will require closure activities such as draining, cleaning and sampling, etc.
- * Develop AST standard operating procedure (SOP) that emphasizes environmental consideration, training, inspection documentation and relocation procedures. The newly developed AST Management Agreement, where AST users agree to conduct required inspections and take accountability for records, will be attached to the SOP.
- * Support source reduction activities related to using AST, such as providing excess ASTs to the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) for the storage of biodiesel.

ASBESTOS/LEAD/RADON/ ENVIRONMENTAL ABATEMENT

We exceeded our goal of completing all initial asbestos surveys by FY06. The goal was 150 surveys each year to reduce potential exposure



Asbestos abatement is one of several pollution prevention programs DECAM oversees.

by staff housed in occupied buildings. Resurveys are accomplished in building's containing asbestos every three years. A total of 650 buildings were resurveyed in this three-year cycle. The goal was exceeded by the aggressive efforts of the staff. The program staff also conducted project oversight for 70 asbestos abatement jobs.

The radon performance goal of re-testing and mitigating 10 buildings per year that exceeded radon gas action levels was met. Based on the sample results received from the 15 buildings, no new buildings required mitigation as all sampling came back below the permissible exposure limit.

A new goal for the testing of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) transformers was established in FY04. This goal was to test the PCB transformers as they were taken out of service and to conduct inspections on 10 percent of all PCB transformers on the Installation. The 183 transformers scheduled to be taken out of service in FY05 were tested and removed. We also met the goal of 10 percent PCB inspections. These measures are being taken to reduce the possibility of fines and staff being exposed to excessive PCB levels.

In FY05, 200 asbestos surveys were completed, 15 buildings were re-tested for radon and inspections were conducted on 21 PCB-

containing transformers to check their integrity with no issues discovered.

Strategies & Projects for the program areas in FY06:

- * Continue asbestos abatement to support facility renovation, repair and maintenance.
- * Improve the asbestos resurveys by checking the quality of previous survey work completed. Resurveys of facilities are required every three years.
- * Continue complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement to dispose of transformers exceeding 50 parts per million (ppm) PCB threshold levels regardless of the date they are to be taken out of service.

CLEAN AIR

The Air Quality Program did not meet its goal of maintaining compliance with federal, state and local air regulations as measured by zero Title V permit noncompliance issues or annual state inspection findings. Fort Carson had several Title V permit non-compliance issues that were self-reported to the state, some of which will likely receive official notice of violations (NOVs) in FY06.

In FY05, the Air Program implemented best management practices at the Bldg. 8000 paint booths through quarterly audits and a thorough evaluation/assessment from an independent contractor. This has dramatically decreased over spray and therefore less paint is used and wasted, decreasing air emissions and waste stream. We substituted and eliminated the use of products containing methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) at Bldg. 8000 for cleaning paint guns and thinning paints, which will eliminate approximately one ton of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).

Fort Carson finalized negotiations with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the EPA on



Paint striping operations are now using paints that are less harmful to air quality.

amending the state regulation concerning smoke obscuring training restrictions, resulting in 176,000 acres of land opening up for full combat training and reducing the economic cost of training delays.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Research ways to further decrease paint waste and over spray by increasing paint transfer efficiency at the DOL Bldg. 8000 paint booths (for example, new application equipment and improved operator painting techniques gained through a free training course).
- * Explore volatile organic compound (VOC) reduction through paint/adhesive reformulation. It has been found that all chemical agent resistant coatings (CARC) and conventional coatings can be formulated to reduce reportable VOC's and HAPs.
- * Encourage the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to install Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems on the gasoline dispensers. By implementing this pollution prevention technology, it will protect customers from the harmful effects of gasoline fumes, as well as minimize the escape of pollutants (reducing hydrocarbon emissions by 99 percent) that contribute to air pollution and would save AAFES money and fuel.



Educational posters about storm water impacts are provided to the Fort Carson community.

CLEAN WATER

Fort Carson met its Clean Water Goal of no permit exceedances from permitted discharge points in FY05. The sewage treatment plant runs efficiently and cleanly due to effective management practices by the Installation operations and maintenance contractor.

Minor stormwater discrepancies were noted by the EPA at two construction sites related to silt fencing, which were corrected.

Notable Clean Water accomplishments in FY05 included Fort Carson completing a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for closed Landfill 5 to allow the discharge of water to "B" ditch, which borders the landfill. The U.S. Geological Service (USGS) established storm water monitoring points at the Hazardous Waste Bunker and the closed Landfill 1 location on Fort Carson. Storm water will be monitored for a year at each site as per regulation requirements.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Partner with the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to rebuild the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) cantonment area sanitary sewage system.
- * Partner with the DPW to evaluate the Fort Carson cantonment area storm water system capabilities for the addition of new facilities.

- * Complete capacity study of the Fort Carson sanitary sewage plant and then submit study to CDPHE to increase capacity from 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 4.0 MGD.

DRINKING WATER

We achieved the goal of zero exceedances of National Primary Drinking Water Standards (NPDWS) for consecutive drinking water systems. Fort Carson has highly qualified drinking water system operators that maintain the water distribution system and perform testing on the drinking water coming on to the Installation. Fort Carson has had no standard violations in more than 12 years.

Notable Drinking Water Program accomplishments in FY05 included completing Emergency Response Plans for PCMS water systems. An updated and complete list of all Fort Carson Housing was obtained for bacterial, chemical sampling, lead/copper sampling and trihalomethane/haloacetic acid testing of the Fort Carson drinking water system. Fort Carson currently has approximately 2,700 housing units.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Conduct a water system Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan for the Fort Carson Turkey Creek drinking water system.
- * Conduct bacterial, lead/copper, chemical, and trihalomethane/ haloacetic acid testing of the PCMS cantonment area drinking water system.
- * Continue required best management testing of the Fort Carson System.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (EPAS)/INSTALLATION STATUS REPORT (ISR) AND ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASE - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (AEDB-EQ)

Fort Carson continued to work on closing out all remaining corrective actions for all regulatory driven findings/deficiencies for Class

I* and Class II** findings as identified in the last external EPAS for Fort Carson, which was conducted in 2003.

For FY05, Fort Carson did not meet its goal of correcting 100 percent of all Class I findings from the 2003 external audit. Major emphasis was placed on ensuring the final closing of Class I findings and identifying requirements necessary for those external inspection findings that had not yet been closed. Fort Carson continues to work on closing the remaining three Class I's that remain open due to: (1) Title V Air Permit continues to undergo review by the State of Colorado and a final/approved permit has not been issued; (2) the construction project for the sewage lagoons at the PCMS encountered both fiscal and design issues; and, (3) the continued lack of required documentation records for storage tanks was due primarily to deployment and re-deployment actions.

Corrective actions are identified in the Fort Carson Installation Corrective Action Plan (ICAP). All findings from the 2003 External EPAS are now posted on the Army Environmental Center (AEC) web-based portal – Army Environmental Reporting Online (AERO). All Army Installations are required to conduct internal EPAS assessments for non-external years.

Newly implemented in FY05, was the requirement to post internal EPAS findings to the AEC website. These findings are added to the list originating from the 2003 external audit. In addition, the EPAS audit process now includes provisions for assessing Fort Carson's Sustainability and Environmental Management System (SEMS).

Fort Carson's implementation of their SEMS met several major Department of the Army

milestones in FY05. We compiled a prioritized list of environmental aspects from activities on the Installation, provided awareness-level briefings on the Army's EMS to all appropriate personnel and scheduled an annual review of our progress to command staff.

Fort Carson continues to identify the need for increased command support, additional training of military units' Soldiers and proactive involvement of the environmental program managers. Continued deployment and re-deployment actions and impacts of proposed Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) impacts upon Fort Carson are anticipated to have a greater need for the DECAM to receive additional training opportunities and necessary command support.

Fort Carson did not report environmental data within the Installation Status Report Part 2 – Environment for 2005 because the Northwest Regional Office Installation Management Agency (NWRO IMA) determined that such was optional.

During FY05 AEC made substantive changes to the Environmental Quality Report (EQR) protocols and procedures resulting in a new process, also accessed through the AERO portal, and renamed AEDB-EQ. The extensive overhaul of this program requires specific environmental program media data to be reported on a quarterly basis through the NWRO IMA. One of the most significant changes was that the AEDB-EQ now serves as the primary reporting point for Enforcement Actions (ENFs) and NOV's issued by federal and/or state regulatory agencies.

In FY05 the DECAM conducted the FY05 Internal EPAS (June – September 2005). We coordinated, prepared and submitted FY05 quarterly AEDB-EQ programs via the AERO web portal.

Strategies and Projects for FY06:

- * Provide support to NWRO IMA and AEC for FY06 external EPAS.
- * Coordinate external EPAS findings identified in the Final Environmental Performance Assessment Report (EPAR) with Fort Carson units/activities.
- * Coordinate the Fort Carson Installation Corrective Action Plan (ICAP) for the FY06 external EPAS audit.
- * Conduct internal EPAS audit of the SEMS.
- * Continue evaluation of EPAS and AEDB-EQ requirements within the Installation environmental training programs.
- * Continue the development, implementation and education of SEMS.

**Class I findings are defined as those indicating current noncompliance with federal, state or local environmental regulation, permit, compliance agreement, consent order or NOV.*

***Class II findings are those that indicate future noncompliance by not meeting a deadline or meeting an annual requirement such as training.*

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

The goal of maintaining 100 percent trained and certified Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs)/Environmental Protection Non-Commissioned Officers (EPNCOs) within 60 days of appointment was not met. The major reason in not attaining our goal was due to continuing deployment and re-deployment actions of military units. Approximately 92 percent of the available Soldiers were trained.

Training will always be the cornerstone of how well Fort Carson maintains a positive compliance posture and adheres to the myriad of environmental laws and regulation requirements. Six EPO Certification Courses were conducted for 75 military and civilian personnel and Environmental Awareness



A variety of environmental training is provided to Soldiers and staff on Fort Carson to ensure successful mission accomplishment while adhering to environmental regulations.

Training was provided to 100 Company Commanders/First Sergeants.

More than 90 percent of all employees and residents on the Installation received Sustainability Awareness Training in FY05. Sustainability and SEMS training has also been integrated into new Soldier, employee and environmental training.

Strategies and projects for FY06:

- * Provide additional environmental training for 2nd Infantry Division – 2nd Brigade Combat Team requirements and any additional BRAC-related assigned units.
- * Increase hazardous awareness training for Soldiers and civilians.
- * Provide for active involvement of certified and trained EPOs/EPNCOs in developing and implementing new training materials.
- * Develop and present two modules for SEMS competency training in addition to awareness training. This training will target leadership, management and staff with job functions that directly impact sustainability goals.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Although Fort Carson received a Final

Compliance Order on Consent in FY05, the order stemmed from CDPHE's annual compliance inspection that took place in FY04. In FY05, the annual inspection netted zero findings; therefore, Fort Carson met its goal to perform hazardous waste operations with no compliance orders and no informal enforcement actions. The goal was accomplished through environmental awareness training programs provided to Installation personnel and through the completion of extensive corrective action as required by the consent order.

The Hazardous Waste Program facilitated the processing of 46,644 pounds of hazardous waste from the Installation in FY05. This reflected a 17 percent increase from FY04. There were also 22,264 pounds of universal waste processed, which was a 25 percent reduction from FY04. Measuring the pounds of hazardous waste disposed of is one gauge of program success. It does not take into account the significant strides in hazardous waste reduction made in the past 10 years. Other accomplishments in FY05 included the launching of a hazardous waste webpage off of the SEMS website. The page includes Hazardous Waste Awareness Training, What Are You Turning-In (WAYTI) sheets, point of contact (POC) information and other resources. Fort Carson submitted the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application and the Hazardous Waste Management Plan was finalized.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Continue Free Issue Program at Bldg. 9249. The program redirects hazardous materials, such as maintenance products, that are still usable to units who would otherwise have to purchase them. In addition, free-issue also eliminates the cost for disposal of the products as a hazardous waste.
- * Continue to emphasize and facilitate RCRA Awareness Training to Soldiers,

civilians and contractors whose jobs require them to handle and/or transport hazardous waste.

- * Complete and submit Subpart X application to CDPHE to finalize the permit for the open detonation unit at Range 121. Ensure all requirements and statements within the plan are coordinated with the Explosive Ordnance Detonation Company and the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization (DPTM)/Range Division personnel to ensure their mission is supported and Fort Carson is in full compliance with state and federal regulations.

- * Finalize the RCRA Part B Permit Application.

- * Continue to increase communication and coordination with RCRA regulators to improve working relationships, compliance and management efficiencies.



The NEPA review process helps facilitate construction projects and military training by identifying environmental permitting, best practices and mitigation.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The goal of 100 percent NEPA compliance for Fort Carson actions with potential to affect the environment was not met, however improvements have been achieved. Instances of NEPA noncompliance are discovered through informal feedback provided and counter checks in place with DPW work scheduled. Some

projects did not go through the appropriate project review process prior to implementation. This weakness poses a statutory compliance and military mission risk, which is being addressed through continued education of proponents.

The NEPA program is one of the most active environmental programs on Fort Carson. Coordination for NEPA compliance is required for every project to be completed on the Installation. The NEPA program completed 118 Records of Environmental Consideration (RECs) for proposed projects and performed four Environmental Assessments (EAs) in FY05.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Provide oversight on Environmental Impact Studies (EISs) for PCMS and Fort Carson Master Plans, EAs for Army Warehouse Construction, Integrated Global Presence Basing Strategy/Army Modularity Force FY06 Construction, Family Housing and transportation (road and highway improvements).
- * Prepare the EAs for High Altitude Helicopter Training/Special Use Permit and for the Installation, Information, Infrastructure Modernization Program.
- * Complete preparation of EA and other NEPA documents as needed for Army transformation/modularity or other actions affecting Fort Carson.
- * Continue to improve how we identify and integrate sustainable practices into projects and the NEPA process.

NOISE

The FY05 goal of monitoring wind contamination didn't prove to be a realistic and effective measurement for the Noise Program. Subsequently, the Noise Program modified the program goals in FY05 for FY06, in order to obtain more realistic and useful information. The new goals are related to monitoring what

the public feels towards the amount of noise produced at Fort Carson and the operational status of noise monitors located around the perimeter of the Installation. With an aggressive maintenance schedule and appropriate funding the Noise Program was able to maintain a 92 percent operational status for the noise monitors. Public awareness was increased about the Installations role in the Global War on Terrorism, and the associated amount of training, so noise complaints were at a minimum.

The program continued to work closely with El Paso County and developers on resolving encroachment issues associated with the Pioneer District. Cooperative efforts began with the USACE Construction Engineering Research Laboratory refining noise contours for Fort Carson.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Continue noise monitoring program at PCMS.
- * Expand the Fort Carson noise monitoring program.
- * Update the Environmental Noise Management Plan.



Proper spill response ensures potentially toxic materials do not contaminate the environment.

SPILL RESPONSE/PREVENTION

Fort Carson met the FY05 goal to reduce the number of spills reportable to regulatory agencies to zero. The goal was met with an

aggressive training program and command involvement to ensure that the training and general awareness about spill response/prevention was communicated to the Installation.

The Spill Control Program contributed to the reduction of reportable spills through proper management and awareness training. In FY05, the EPA established new criteria for training, which will take effect in FY06. This criteria change will require all units/directorates on the Installation to receive additional spill awareness training.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Provide training for all personnel that require the new EPA-mandated training.
- * Support Installation spill response needs, which will include equipment maintenance, training and exercise participation, and restocking of used materials for both the DECAM and the Fort Carson Fire Department.
- * Continue to emphasize and implement containment methods where appropriate..

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)

The UST goal of zero inspection findings was met. However, the USTs are not in full compliance with federal, state and local regulations as monthly leak detector tests were not conducted on 21 of Fort Carson's USTs. This was due to faulty equipment, in particular, the automatic tank gauging system. These tanks will be removed in FY06. The removal project is the reason Fort Carson did not receive a NOV for failure to submit the monthly leak detection documentation requested by OPS.

Fort Carson will realize a cost savings of approximately \$150,000 due to the postponement of removing the USTs at PCMS until the natural gas lines are installed. The source of the savings stems from not having to purchase and install AST's to replace the

heating fuel USTs. The new bulk and retail facilities were completed and opened for business in late FY05, allowing for the beginning of the UST removal project. A UST webpage was developed and posted on the SEMS website with links to guidance documents, projects, regulations, forms and other resources.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Continue to assist with the coordination of the fuel removal project from the USTs slated for removal in FY06.
- * Ensure remaining USTs are in full compliance with federal, state and local regulations; determine actual need for the two USTs at Bldg. 501 and the one at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex to determine removal justification and request funds for the removal.
- * Support AAFES in resolving recent UST compliance issues related to tank upgrades.

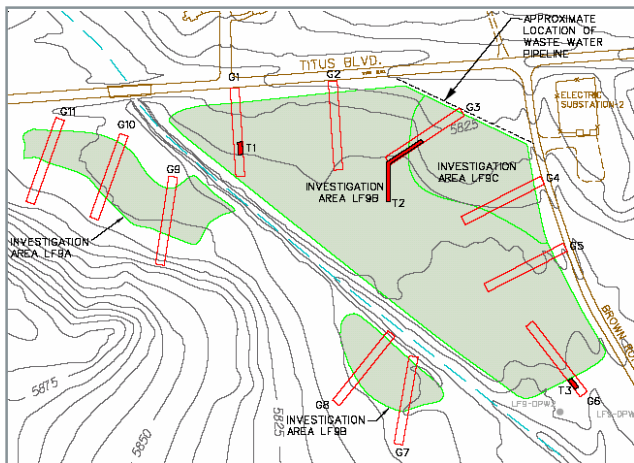
II. RESTORATION: Mitigate contamination from past and current operations to protect human health and the environment and fulfill responsibilities established in environmental laws, regulations and permits. The Restoration pillar is measured by the following strategic outcomes:

- * Reduce sites requiring closure using the 1994 RCRA facility assessment as a baseline.
- * Reduce short- and long-term impacts to human health and the environment.

RESTORATION

Fort Carson is on track to meet its long-term goal to cleanup "high risk" sites by FY07. This goal continues to be accomplished through a rigorous team work approach between Fort Carson, CDPHE, USACE, AEC, the NWRO IMA and consultants.

The Restoration Program is charged with the task of mitigating past environmental damage



Map of Landfill 9 RFI boundary verification trenching.

on the Installation. In FY05, Fort Carson received CDPHE approval of the Module VI Risk Document. This will allow eligible sites to progress toward No Further Action (NFA) status. We achieved NFA status at two sites Ranges 1A and 123 and attained a Remedy Complete finding for Landfill 5, which is now in the long-term monitoring phase. Fort Carson completed Interim Corrective Measure source removal (soil) at the Grit/Oil Pit. The Landfill 9 waste boundary was delineated by using non-intrusive, surface geophysical technology rather than the traditional trenching methods. The non-intrusive method proved to be just as effective a delineation tool, and the regulatory community is willing to look at this as a viable technology for similar efforts in the future.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Pursue approval of the Corrective Measures Study work plan template.
- * Execute three in-situ (in place) pilot studies to evaluate methods for remediation of certain contaminants in groundwater.
- * Pursue approval of the NFA template, which requires risk modules.
- * Continue to enhance cost effectiveness and efficiencies for remediation and restoration through technology, performance-based contracting and best practices.

III. PREVENTION: Adopt and implement integrated approaches, procedures and operations in all Fort Carson mission areas to minimize or eliminate environmental contamination and pollution. The Prevention pillar is measured by the following strategic outcomes:

- * Reduce toxic and hazardous waste used in Installation processes and operations.
- * Improve energy and water use efficiencies.
- * Reduce solid waste disposal.

ENERGY

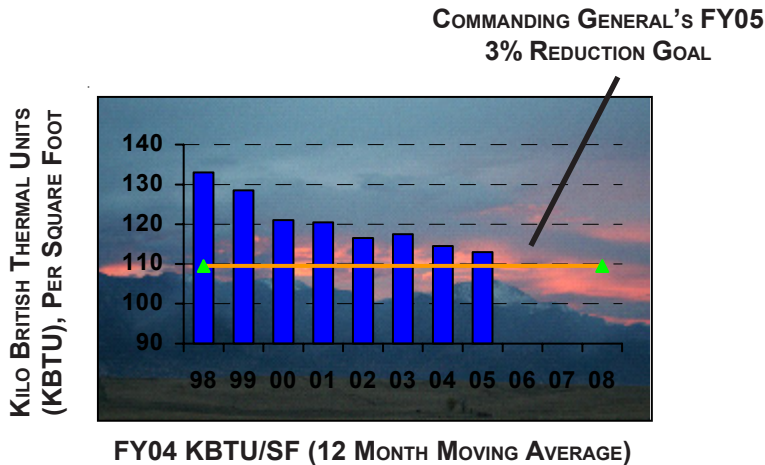
Facility energy use was reduced by 26.8 percent per square foot from the baseline year of FY85. Fort Carson, however, did not meet its annual goal to reduce energy consumption per square foot by 3.0 percent compared to FY04. Electric use increased 1.4 percent and natural gas use increased by 0.6 percent compared to FY04. Energy use per square foot decreased 0.7 percent, even though natural gas and electric use went up, because overall square footage available on the Installation

increased due to new construction.

Significant progress was made in FY05 in the energy program. Projects included:

- * *Purchasing 40,000 mega watt hours (MWH) of renewable energy certificates from the Western Area Power Administration offsetting approximately 28 percent of Fort Carson nonrenewable electrical use. Fort Carson was identified by the EPA as one of the top 25 renewable energy partners.*
- * *The design of an energy reduction Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) projects at Bldg. 8000 and planning for a solar wall installation at Bldg. 8030 was completed by USACE. The construction on the projects are scheduled to begin in FY06.*
- * *Submitting a funding request and an energy saving analysis necessary to secure*

FORT CARSON ENERGY USAGE PER SQUARE FOOT SINCE FY98



FY07 ECIP funds to expand the Utility Control System to monitor and control energy use in an additional 14 facilities.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Complete a funding request and an energy saving analysis and submit for FY08 ECIP funds to replace over 25 inefficient boilers and furnaces on Fort Carson.
- * Reenergize efforts by DPW to complete a lighting retrofit project identified several years ago to replace inefficient fluorescent lighting.
- * Investigate the feasibility of placing wind towers on the southeastern portion of Fort Carson in a partnership with a local company.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Significant progress was made in FY05 to reduce pollutants from Fort Carson to the environment by 5 percent using FY02 as a baseline.

Pollution prevention accomplishments included:

- * *Installing a paint gun cleaner and two minimizers at Bldg. 8000 to recycle solvent used in the paint booth area significantly reducing Fort Carson's second largest hazardous waste stream and saving over*

\$30,000 per year in disposal costs and new purchase costs.

** Contracting with a local company and placing approximately 25, 250-gallon collection totes at motor pools to capture and recycle used antifreeze thus creating a new revenue stream for the recycle program.*

** Deconstructing the golf course clubhouse diverted 88 percent of the materials from going to a landfill.*

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Work with DOL to initiate a program for recycling bead blast media used to remove paint from military vehicles.
- * Continue investigating the feasibility of deconstruction techniques on future demolition projects.
- * Explore concrete and asphalt recycling opportunities with DPW.

RECYCLING

Fort Carson experienced an increase in the amount of solid waste generated but still met the Department of Defense mandated diversion rate of 40 percent by FY05. The Recycle Program component of solid waste diversion efforts strives to provide a customer-oriented recycling program.

In FY05, there were approximately 10,700 tons of solid waste generated, the equivalent of a 42 percent increase over FY04, where 7,524 tons were generated. The diversion rate would be closer to the actual weight collected if the solid waste figures were more accurate. The Installation uses tips (emptying) per container as the estimated weight totals. However, many of the containers are either empty or not filled to capacity. Calculating containers as having full weight falsely inflates figures.

In FY05, the Recycle Program increased recycling of commodities collected (including brass, plastic, paper, cardboard and aluminum) over 200 percent from 3,222 tons in FY04 to 8540 tons. By adding containers, more Soldiers will have an easier and more convenient opportunity to recycle. This should increase diversion rates.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Work with DPW to resolve the issue of how weight totals are calculated to accurately capture solid waste diversion.
- * Purchase new containers to provide more recycling points throughout the Installation.
- * Facilitate coordination with military units and directorates to promote recycling, identify potential new commodities, such as wood pallets and develop new processes that meet the need of the customer and reduce solid waste disposal.

IV. CONSERVATION: Conserve and protect natural and cultural resources consistent with the military mission for present and future generations. The Conservation pillar is measured by the following strategic outcomes:

- * Sustain and improve training land condition and realism.
- * Comply with statutory and regulatory mandates, requirements and procedures in order to reduce negative impacts on training and quality of life.
- * Improve urban landscape and livability of the community.

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

We are on track to achieve 100 percent compliance status with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by year-end FY06.

Cultural Resources Management accomplishments included completing

archaeological inventory/evaluation work on more than 25,000+ acres. Archaeological evaluation/mitigation work was conducted on 32 sites on Fort Carson and the PCMS.

Native American consultation efforts culminated in November 2005. A Comprehensive Agreement between Fort Carson and the Native American tribes who claim a cultural affiliation with Fort Carson administered lands for access and treatment of human remains and other cultural items of significance in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was signed. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Jicarilla Apache Nation for the management and treatment of the Hogback at the PCMS as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) was signed in May 2005.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Staff efforts will continue the sites re-evaluation project outlined in the 2002 Cultural Resources Action Plan. With continued intense focus and administrative efforts, it is anticipated that the program will reach 100 percent compliance status with the provisions set forth in the NHPA by the end of FY06.
- * An update of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) will



Fort Carson is rich with cultural resources including the historic Penrose House at Turkey Creek Ranch Recreation Area.

be completed in mid-FY06 which will cover the planning period 2006-2010. To accompany this update, staff will assist in the development of a new programmatic agreement between Fort Carson, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and certain Native American tribes for the management and treatment of the Installation's cultural resources, to include designated Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION AND RECOVERY

The Installation met its goal of receiving no jeopardy opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) due to Army actions that would be expected to directly or indirectly reduce the survival or recovery of a listed species. Species and habitat surveys, dialogue with the USFWS and development of conservation easements enabled us to prevent adverse regulatory actions that could restrict training on Fort Carson or the PCMS.

The Endangered Species Protection and Recovery Program works to protect listed species, while ensuring mission accomplishment is possible. In FY05, staff surveyed and evaluated all known Mexican spotted owl wintering sites on Fort Carson as part of agreement with the USFWS. Breeding surveys for the Mexican spotted owl were conducted for the first time at all potentially known sites on the PCMS as requested by the Colorado Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team.

Annual surveys for the black-tailed prairie dog, the state listed burrowing owl, and the mountain plover were completed for both Fort Carson and PCMS.

DECAM staff worked with Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) fishery biologists to

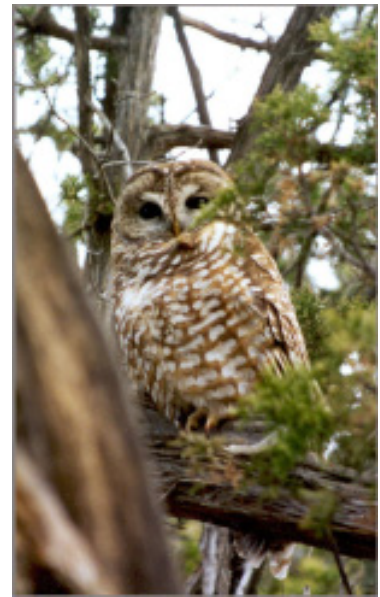
sample populations of state listed fish and to provide breeding stock for the Colorado small fish recovery program.

Strategies & Projects for FY06: Listed, Candidate and Sensitive Species -

- * Conduct monitoring surveys for expansion, contraction and persistence of known black-tailed prairie dog colonies.
- * Conduct annual breeding surveys for the burrowing owl and the mountain plover.
- * Assist the CDOW with small fish recovery programs.
- * Conduct breeding surveys for the Mexican spotted owl on the PCMS and identify areas for prescribed fire to protect Mexican spotted owl habitat.
- * Use land cover layer to model potential wintering sites for the Mexican spotted owl on Fort Carson.

Conservation Easements and Ecoregional Assessment Management -

- * Assist with the development of regional management plans for lands acquired through conservation easements and leases in partnership with landowners, Colorado Natural Heritage, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), CDOW and the USFWS. These nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will develop and implement the management plans with our input, guidance and approval.
- * Partner with all internal and external entities necessary to implement regional and



The Mexican spotted owl is a sensitive species monitored on Fort Carson and PCMS as part of the Endangered Species Act.

Installation management goals and strategies, including NGOs, Installation directorates and state and federal agencies.

- * Adhere to the Endangered Species Act requirements and guidelines developed in Fort Carson's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Plan.

FORESTRY ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The goal of conducting fuels reduction/forest thinning/forest health improvement program based on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) projects at Fort Carson was met in FY05.

The ips beetle control goal was met at Fort Carson in FY05. We treated 11 acres this year and have contracted an additional 70 acres for thinning the winter of FY06.

There were no major wildland fires in FY05. With prescribed burns, the 9,000+ acres burned from minor wildland fires and reduced training activities due to deployments, the major wildfire activity was lowered.

At PCMS the ips control goal was not met due to low ips occurrence and the low presence of its primary host the piñon tree. Less than 9 percent of the trees at PCMS are piñon and most have already experienced disease.

The success of the acres thinned at Camp Falcon to control an ips beetle outbreak, mountain pine beetle and mistletoe is attributed to the direct collaboration and agreement with the U.S. Air Force Academy (USFA) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The agreement provides for cooperative assistance from the USFS in Colorado to sustain and improve forest health and maintain the aesthetic appeal of forests at the USFA, Fort Carson and PCMS.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:



Trees are an important part of the aesthetic beauty of Fort Carson lands, but also play a crucial role in providing concealment for training and wildlife habitat.

- * Continue ips beetle control efforts through collaborative partnerships to assist with cutting down and treating current ips beetle infested trees.

- * Survey forest stands that could potentially benefit by thinning operations to enhance military training, reduce hazardous fuel loads, improve tree stand resistance to disease and improve overall forest health.

- * Assess the additional tree mortality currently experienced on Fort Carson and PCMS, attributed to drought stress, in relation to the forest management plan, increased fuel loads and forest dynamics.

PEST CONTROL AND PESTICIDE REDUCTION

Fort Carson met the Department of Defense (DOD), Measure of Merit goal by ensuring that 100 percent of the pesticide applicators were properly certified.

In 2004, the DOD and the Department of the Army (DA) issued a new goal for total pounds of active ingredient (PAI) applied during the fiscal year. The new goal was based on the average active ingredient used during the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years. Fort Carson used an average of 1,002 pounds. This average became the new goal. In FY05, we failed to meet the goal and a total of 5,097 pounds of active ingredient, which included 4,892 PAI of herbicide and 204 PAI of insecticides and

rodenticides were used. This was an increase of 8 percent over the PAI used in FY04.

The greatest use of pesticide continues to be the treatment and control of weeds within the landscaped areas of the cantonment. It is the goal to reduce the amount of herbicide used for weed control within the landscaped areas of the cantonment to 2,324 PAI, a 50 percent reduction from the amount used in FY05.

In FY05, Pest Management continued to work with both state and local agencies to evaluate the West Nile Virus (WNV) Management Program. It is anticipated that the Installation will continue control measures through the exclusive use of surveillance, education and larvicides treatments to reduce the risk of exposure to both military and civilian personnel.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Continue to use education and awareness programs to inform military and civilians on alternatives to pesticide.
- * Coordinate and implement pest control activities.
- * Direct, coordinate and report all pest management operations.
- * Use chemical control as a last resort to control pests. Cultural, mechanical and biological control methods will continue to be first priority. When chemical control is required, the least environmentally-toxic pesticide and active ingredient(s) will be used.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Fort Carson met its goal to actively treat noxious weeds on the Installation per state and federal regulations. Aggressive program management and implementation of various control methods have prevented noxious weeds from impacting training and neighboring landowners.

In FY05, 40,000 acres and over 200 miles of drainages on Fort Carson and PCMS were surveyed for noxious weeds with 200 acres being treated for noxious weeds using an integrated management approach to control and eradicate.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Continue monitoring and treating Colorado Class A noxious weed African rue (*Peganum harmala*), per agreement with Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- * Treat 100 percent of Colorado Class A weeds, while working to contain, control or eliminate 20 percent of Colorado Class B and C weeds by increasing treatment of noxious weeds to 260 acres in 2006.
- * Survey 10 percent of the Installation each year so that by 2014 all lands will be surveyed, with the goal of reducing the pervasiveness of infestations by 10 percent each year.
- * Support and work with entities such as El Paso County, Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Cooperative, the Front Range Eco-Regional Partnership, which comprises DoD installations and other regional agencies, to improve communication, education and management strategies of noxious weeds specific to areas of common interest on the boundary of Fort Carson.



Noxious weeds are controlled by a variety of means including biocontrol, which is the use of insects to destroy the weeds ability to spread.

PCMS ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS

The Installation met its goal of no net loss of mechanized training land due to permanent natural resource requirements over FY00 baseline through continued coordination with stakeholders, including DPTM/Range Division.

We accomplished a variety of in-house projects in FY05: road improvements; facility and well repairs; land reclamation; watershed improvement projects; and prescribed burns to reduce fuel loads, enhance habitat and provide for quality military training lands. The DECAM also worked with DPTM/Range Division to develop plans to open Areas B and C at PCMS for training.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Assist Forestry Ecosystem Management Program to secure funding and begin actively thinning selected stands of piñon-juniper forest, to reduce the fire fuel load, improve training opportunities and improve forest health.
- * Maintain windmills, wells and waterlines and upgrade wells with solar pumps.
- * Expand watershed initiatives to include: excavating full catchment areas, building diversions, revegetating sites with native species and supporting prescribed burns to enhance habitat and reduce fire fuel loads.

URBAN FORESTRY

Fort Carson did not meet its goal of achieving a greater than 90 percent survival rate for new plantings. The program has continued to experience reductions in staff, which has directly impacted the ability to keep trees sufficiently watered. Additionally, because of the deployment of resident military commands we did not receive support from detailed Soldiers as in previous years. To address these challenges the section will selectively plant with supplemental drip irrigation and renew efforts to augment the staff with Soldier support.



Earth Day events included students planting trees at schools on Fort Carson.

The Urban Forestry Program has continued to improve the condition of the “Green Infrastructure” of Fort Carson.

Accomplishments included administering several contracts which resulted in over 1,200 trees pruned and 1,400 trees treated for pest infestations. Approximately 90 hazard trees were removed and a total of 300 diseased/damaged trees were removed. More than 400 regionally-adaptable trees and shrubs were planted in new building and housing area projects.

The program also provided key support to the Earth Day/Arbor Day 2005 program. Approximately 4,324 student-participant-activities were realized. This was an increase of over 100 percent from the 2004 programs. Activities included grocery bag art contest, essay contest, reading program, education fairs and Arbor Day tree planting. There were 70 trees and shrubs planted during the Earth Day/Arbor Day 2005 events.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Conduct inventory of street trees. Qualify species and size diversity.
- * Grow our investment in the community’s “green” infrastructure by monitoring and improving the maintenance of trees and

shrubs in the Cantonment Area. Water, fertilize, prune and treat for pests as needed.

- * Identify and implement measures to conserve energy and water usage through the use of Xeriscape principles, “state-of-the-art” irrigation techniques, plant selection and expanded tree planting.

- * Develop and establish a Memorial Tree Park to honor the veterans who served in the Global War on Terrorism in conjunction with the El Paso County Conservation District and the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

- * Assist/advise the Fort Carson Community on adopting best management practices for designating, developing and maintaining the “green” infrastructure.

WATER RIGHTS MAINTENANCE

We met our goal of no water rights considered for abandonment by responsibly monitoring and reporting water use (via the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS]) and maintaining water diversion systems. All water rights use continue to be recognized by the Colorado Water Commissioner as adhering to beneficial use criteria and meeting adjudicated use mandates to provide water for recreation, fire fighting and support military training.

Surface water rights accomplishments:

- * *Initiated plans with the Colorado Water Commissioner to apply for new water rights on Rock Creek to enhance future water availability to supply water to Large and Small Bird Reservoirs.*

- * *Worked with the USFWS and coordinated with the Colorado Dam Commissioner to collaboratively develop plans to rebuild the Rock Creek Diversion (or Gale Ditch Diversion) to enhance data collection and reporting efficiencies relative to meeting state mandates for water rights maintenance.*

- * *Coordinated with the Colorado Dam Engineer resulting in considerable work on Townsend Reservoir and Teller Reservoir.*

- * *Accomplished maintenance on Lytle Pond and Duck Pond that will increase dam efficiency and effectiveness.*

- * *Collaborated with USACE and DPW in developing a dam safety assessment of all reservoirs on Fort Carson critical in developing future dam maintenance requirements.*

Ground water (well) rights accomplishments included collaborating with the Colorado Well Protective and Development Association (CWPDA) to plan for placing all of Fort Carson’s wells on the same meter calibration/ testing schedule, which will save time and money accomplishing this state mandate.

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * *Aggressively manage water rights on Fort Carson and the PCMS to facilitate recreation, wildfire control, support military training and anticipated growth and expansion of assigned military personnel and associated training resource requirements.*

- * *Maintain water diversion and monitoring structures to enhance future effectiveness and efficiencies.*

- * *Enhance regional partnership initiatives that will facilitate more effective and efficient water rights management and use.*

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The DECAM is making progress in meeting its goal of 85 percent of all watersheds on the Installation being surveyed by 2007. In FY05, a watershed manager was hired and between 5 and 10 percent of the watersheds were surveyed.

Watershed Management accomplishments:

- * *Initiated a monitoring program for Training Area B and C at the PCMS. Initial investigations involve the use of remote*

sensing technologies to validate changes in vegetative cover relative to military training impacts.

- * Initiated a natural resources monitoring assessment through the Colorado Natural Heritage Program designed to provide recommendations to better integrate all conservation monitoring/survey efforts on Fort Carson and PCMS.*
- * Continued implementation of the Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Assessment in cooperation with TNC and numerous regional partners such as the USFWS, NRCS, USFS, State Land Board and Colorado Soil Conservation Districts.*

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Formalize watershed planning process to effectively and efficiently implement future management strategies.*
- * Enhance regional watershed management initiatives with state, federal, private and local partners.*
- * Develop and/or refine monitoring strategies that will quantify/qualify training impacts on Training Area B and C at PCMS.*
- * Collaborate with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to de-list Teller Reservoir from Colorado's List of Impaired Waters.*
- * Survey Tamarisk weed infestations on Fort Carson and the PCMS.*
- * Acquire and assess the new soil and ecological site survey of Las Animas County with the NRCS.*

WETLAND PROTECTION AND RECOVERY

We met the goal of no net loss of wetland resources on Fort Carson and the PCMS. We ensured compliance through dialogue with regulators, use of the NEPA process and adherence to the Clean Water Act. Wetlands and water resources are treated with considerable importance because they are limited in number and extent.



Vehicles used during maneuvers can damage fragile wetland areas if they are not avoided during training.

Wetlands Protection and Recovery accomplishments included:

- * Operating several ditches to fill North Side Reservoir. This provided water to reclaim two-to-three acres of wetlands dried by the drought.*
- * Facilitated the proper USACE Engineers reviews for numerous proposed projects that potentially affect wetland resources on Fort Carson and the PCMS. The BRAC and transformation initiatives have significantly increased the need to appropriately review all proposed projects and activities necessary to meet Clean Water Act requirements.*
- * Compiled and compared the 2003 National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data to the 1992 NWI. Initial estimates indicate a significant increase in wetland acres during this period, even with severe drought impacts during the past five years.*

Strategies & Projects for FY06:

- * Support the development of environmental analytical models to assist decision makers and promote initiatives to protect and enhance ecosystems, including the use of inventories, partnerships with resource agencies and practices such as wetland replacement and rehabilitation.*
- * Continue to review all proposed project specifications and training plans for potential impacts to wetland resources.*

- * Coordinate with the USACE on all potential impacts to wetland resources.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

There were no major fire areas to rehabilitate as wildfires were minimal on FY05. A total of 1,200 acres burned due to wildfire.

The fire department reports burns in calendar year not fiscal year. Prescribed burns were conducted at Fort Carson and the PCMS. A total of 21,000 acres were treated with prescribed fire in 2005.

Strategies & Projects for FY06

- * Continue to monitor, plan and rehabilitate major fire sites.
- * Continue to use prescribed fire as a management tool targeting up to 25,000 acres annually.
- * Design and begin using a pre- and post-burn monitoring system that will improve overall fire program by indicating what burns are beneficial and show areas where implementation can be improved.
- * Continue to train monthly through half to one day fire training meetings with all DECAM fire personnel. This will include training on all equipment, safety, demonstrations and hands-on situational training.



Prescribed fires offset the danger of wildland fires by reducing fire fuel loads (vegetation).

- * Track training accomplishments of each fire fighter and complete development plans and target assignment levels for each. Keep task books up to date.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As in previous years, we will continue to emphasize public and Soldier education and awareness about birds and other protected species to proactively enhance Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) compliance.

The Wildlife Program is multifaceted and our goals are to provide quality outdoor experiences for Fort Carson Soldiers, provide for public safety and Force Protection, provide quality educational programs to local area schools and manage game and non-game species on Fort Carson and the PCMS.

Our objective to conduct monitoring surveys in FY05 was abandoned in favor of adopting a new approach for the monitoring program, which was to follow TNC's Conservation Blueprint. This strategy is used by the Colorado Natural Heritage and the Shortgrass Prairie Initiative, NGOs with which we are closely aligned. The basic strategy involves identification and ranking of important conservation sites on Fort Carson. Although we abandoned the FY05 objective to conduct surveys, the scientific void of biological information from Fort Carson and the PCMS to facilitate regional conservation was met by providing the Colorado Natural Heritage sensitive species data for Fort Carson and the PCMS.

DECAM law enforcement officers surpassed our patrol object by conducting approximately 1,100 hours of downrange and Force protection patrols.

During FY05, we initiated and consolidated interagency support for the evolution of our monitoring program based on the TNC

Conservation Blueprint strategy, and obtained BRAC dollars to initiate the first stage of the program, which is to develop a land use map for Fort Carson.

Some 9,000 pounds of rainbow trout were stocked into our recreational reservoirs. We managed hunting seasons on Fort Carson and the PCMS involving approximately 500 hunters in more than a dozen seasons. DECAM acquired cow special elk hunting licenses for use by active-duty Fort Carson Soldiers and obtained landowner hunting licenses for Soldiers.

We took biological samples from big game harvested on Fort Carson in support of the CDOW Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Program. The program staff conducted an aerial deer survey on Fort Carson and provided the data to the CDOW, and worked with them to develop a population estimate for the Installation.

*Strategies & Projects for FY06:
Wildlife Law Enforcement and Human Health and Safety -*

- * Protect natural resources and Soldiers training down range by maintaining the number of violations at or less than 5 percent of the annual number of permittees.



Wildlife management includes dealing with wildlife that has come on to the Installation and poses potential danger to residents and themselves, such as this moose that was tranquilized and transported to a wildlife area.

- * Maintain a visible law enforcement presence downrange by achieving 1,000 hours of downrange law enforcement and force protection patrols.
- * Handle nuisance wildlife complaints on Fort Carson and PCMS, and provide for public safety in the event that a bear, mountain lion, rattlesnake or other dangerous wildlife is present in the Cantonment and areas where Soldiers are training.

Wildlife Management -

- * Conduct golden eagle nest occupancy surveys and other selected species in support of the Shortgrass Prairie Initiative.
 - * Continue development of the TNC Conservation Blueprint strategy for Fort Carson. The FY06 objectives are to complete the land cover maps for Fort Carson and the PCMS.
 - * Conduct CWD surveillance on Fort Carson.
 - * Continue to develop and provide quality education programs to local area students.
- Wildlife Recreation -*
- * Increase Soldier participation in hunting and fishing programs.
 - * Complete the consolidation of all aspects of the hunting and fishing program to the Wildlife Office.
 - * Stock approximately 8,000 to 9,000 pounds of trout.

Major accomplishments in FY05...

Post purchases renewable energy certificates

The DPW and DECAM set out to invest more renewable energy in FY05. Fort Carson partnered with eight other government agencies and signed a landmark agreement July 2005 with the Western Area Power Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, to purchase RECs. The credits will come from a

combination of biomass (76 percent) that will come from sawmills in California and wind farms (24 percent) located in California and Nebraska.

Fort Carson will purchase the certificates at about the same cost as current electricity rates. At approximately \$1 per million watt-hours, the RECs purchased will equate to approximately 2,450 hours of renewable energy produced per year or 28 percent of the energy purchased by Fort Carson.

Buying the credits does not mean Fort Carson uses the actual renewable energy produced. Instead, they give Fort Carson credit for supporting renewable energy production and the companies producing the energy.

The most commonly used energy sources (i.e., coal, oil and natural gas) are limited in supply. In contrast, renewable energy sources (i.e., wind, sun, biomass) are created daily, offering a limitless supply. By supporting renewable energy use, Fort Carson reduces the nation's dependency on foreign energy sources thereby helping to improve our national security and avoid rising costs.

Colorado air regulation amendment beneficial to smoke/obscurant training

The ability to “train as we fight” in a realistic environment on Fort Carson was furthered in July 2005, when the CDPHE approved an amendment to its 1998 regulation concerning the use of military smoke and obscurants during training exercises. The amendment removed a three-kilometer buffer zone around the perimeter of the Installation in which no smoke could be generated and removed constraints on the types of smoke allowed.

This significant regulatory change will provide increased training flexibility and more realistic training capability. It will allow Soldiers to make better use of critical training areas, such



Smoke training is monitored to ensure smoke does not cross our boundaries.

as drop zones for airborne operations and urban warfare training complexes and to use better technology, such as synthetic graphite. It also helps minimize delays in training as the amendment allows the consolidated use of the 373,000 training acres at Fort Carson and the PCMS.

The amendment went into effect Sep. 30, 2005, and does not change the regulatory requirement of no visible emissions crossing the Installation boundary. Fort Carson has operational procedures and controls in place to increase accountability, which places an emphasis on the proper use of smoke and obscurant to facilitate training while ensuring environmental compliance. Response measures are in place in the unlikely event smoke drifts toward or crosses our boundary.

ACUB initiative gains ground in FY05

Fort Carson and regional partners have been working together since 2001 to conserve natural resources while simultaneously meeting Fort Carson's military mission requirements. The major tool being used is the ACUB program to purchase conservation easements from willing sellers adjacent to Fort Carson.

Fort Carson's ACUB initiative is ranked as the number one priority in the DA and the number two priority in the DOD. This is due to the uniquely advantageous opportunity on our southern boundary (dealing with only one family of landowners) and the very current and pressing issue of the El Rancho Development on the Installation's eastern boundary.

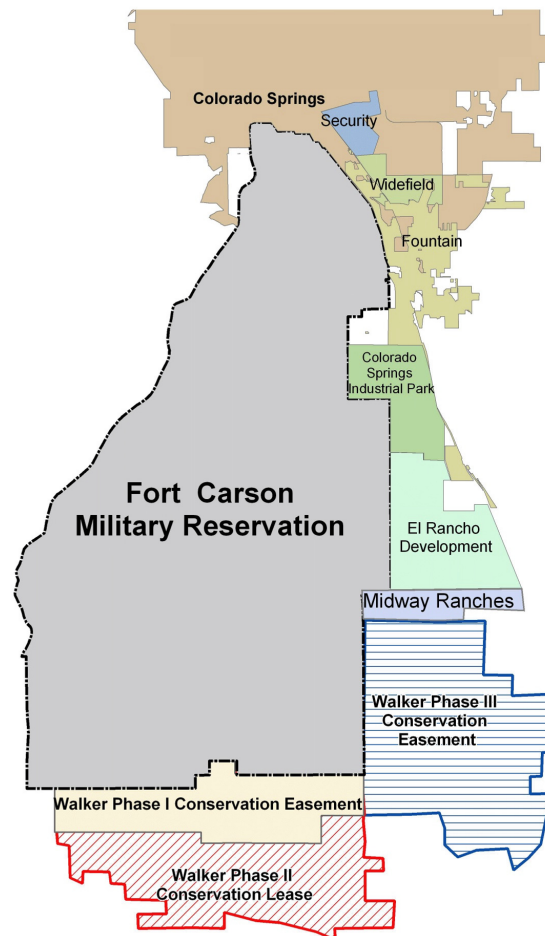
In June 2005, \$4.92 million was spent to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 5,000 acres of the Walker Ranches on the southern boundary of Fort Carson.

Partners in Fort Carson's ACUB efforts include the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), DA, TNC, USFWS and private landowners.

The ACUB represents a unique, but increasingly popular, conservation management approach because it takes into account internal and external conservation interests, which, in this case, include:

- * Fort Carson gaining a valuable buffer zone to successfully accomplish its mission to train Soldiers, and the ability to mitigate impacts to protected species by extending management and protection beyond Installation boundaries.
- * Conservation easements on the Walker Ranch secure habitat for protected species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Specifically, Fort Carson is dedicated to habitat protection for the mountain plover and the black-tailed prairie dog.
- * Fort Carson, TNC, USFWS and CDOW will realize substantial conservation benefits by cooperatively protecting large tracts contiguous to, or close to, an existing large core area of quality habitat. Fort Carson contains approximately 137,000 acres of managed native plant communities

Fort Carson ACUB Map



representative of the Central Short Grass Prairie Eco-region, which includes short grass prairie, pinyon/juniper woodland, riparian communities, canyon systems and other ecological communities.

The overall program objective entails future acquisition of easements on over 60,000 acres of land adjacent to Fort Carson, as well as lands surrounding PCMS.

Fort Carson implements a SEMS

The Acting Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff designated sustainability as the Army's Strategy for the Environment in October 2004.

Sustainability is acting today to meet the needs of the present in a manner that allows future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability considers not only the environmental aspects and impacts of operations and decisions, but it also considers the social factors (society, economy and individual well-being) associated with an organization's actions.

Fort Carson's journey toward Installation sustainability began with its first annual regional conference in 2002, where Fort Carson and community stakeholders established 25-year goals.

Additionally, the Army requires all installations implement an Environmental Management System (EMS). While there are many examples of EMS, the Army selected ISO 14001, an International Standards Organization environmental standard, as the benchmark for its EMS. An EMS provides a system to manage an organization's environmental impacts in relation to its mission and environmental aspects.

Fort Carson has integrated sustainability with the EMS, a SEMS, to get the benefits of both. Fort Carson began implementation of the SEMS with signing of the SEMS policy by the Commanding General September 23, 2003. The

objective is to be in full SEMS conformance by December 2009.

In FY05, more than 90 percent of all employees and residents on the Installation were given introductory sustainability and SEMS training, which has been integrated into new Soldier, employee and environmental training.

DECAM aids in mission accomplishment

Several DECAM programs work hand-in-hand with military training and Installation construction planners to support the mission. The NEPA program is involved with every facet of planning on Fort Carson and PCMS to ensure environmental requirements are met. The NEPA Program began assisting in the planning of new construction required due to force changes relating to BRAC.

The Cultural Resources Management Program does crucial work surveying and clearing lands of any potential cultural resources thereby opening land for use. In FY05, cultural survey work was conducted to open a Maneuver Live Fire Range at PCMS for military training. Fort Carson initiated a 15,000 acre archaeological inventory/evaluation project at the PCMS in anticipation of an increase in troop strength at Fort Carson.

Management plans guide our success

THE DECAM STRATEGIC PLAN

The DECAM Strategic Plan relates the vision, mission, values and goals of DECAM. This overall plan is used by command, other directorates and the public to understand why DECAM performs its tasks and how we measure performance. The vision of the plan is clearly stated as "enabling military training and mission readiness in a culture of environmental stewardship that anticipates future



Fort Carson Soldiers are trained to be more sustainable while accomplishing their mission at home and abroad.

requirements...” This vision allows internal and external stakeholders to understand that the DECAM’s desire is to sustain the environment for future military training missions and reminds DECAM program managers that their jobs encompass protection of the environment and the military mission.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP)

The Fort Carson INRMP is the guide for the natural resources program on Fort Carson and PCMS from 2002 through 2006. The INRMP helps ensure the maintenance of quality training lands to accomplish critical military mission on a sustained basis. It also aids in ensuring natural resources conservation measures and Army military mission activities are integrated and consistent with federal stewardship requirements in order to support both our military mission and the needs of our region.

INTEGRATED CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (ICRMP)

The Fort Carson ICRMP provides guidance and procedures to enable the 7th ID and Fort Carson to meet its legal responsibilities at Fort Carson and PCMS for identification, evaluation and protection of cultural resources while

causing the least disturbance to the military mission. The ICRMP integrates legal requirements for cultural resources preservation into the everyday operation of our mission and supporting activities.

How we measured up in FY05

The DECAM met 77 percent of its goals in FY05. Many of the challenges presented in FY05 continue to deal with troops returning and redeploying and budgetary constraints in the Army due to the Global War on Terrorism. New challenges on the horizon include BRAC and transformation growth on the Installation.



Ensuring Soldiers are trained in a safe environment while accomplishing the Army mission is the ultimate goal of DECAM.



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